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TWELFTH GENERAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE
AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
OTTAWA, DECEMBER 3, 4 AND 5, 1989

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, is pleased to announce that the 12th General Ministerial Conference of the Agence de Coopération culturelle et technique (ACCT) will be held in Ottawa December 3 - 5, 1989.

The Canadian Delegation will be led by the Honourable Lucien Bouchard in his capacity of Minister responsible for Summits and for the ACCT, and will also include the Honourable Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations and International Development, responsible for The Francophonie.

"As one of the founding members of the Agency, Canada welcomes this opportunity to host the Agency's Ministerial Conference," stated Mr. Clark. "The Francophonie is a significant aspect of Canada's foreign policy and the Agency provides an important multilateral forum in which Canada's views can be heard."

At this 12th Conference the ACCT will be confirmed as the secretariat for coordinating action flowing from the Francophonie Summits. The Heads of Government of the Francophonie decided in Dakar last May to give this coordinating responsibility to the Agency.

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"This notable increase in the responsibilities of the Agency demonstrates our common wish to ensure the permanence of the Francophonie by providing an institutional structure to carry out decisions of the Heads of Government," said Mr. Bouchard.

At the Ottawa Conference a new Secretary-General will be elected. Canada is presenting Mr. Jean-Louis Roy, currently General Delegate of Québec in Paris, as a candidate for this position. "Canada gives its full support to Mr. Roy's candidature. We hope that the States members of the ACCT will consider Mr. Roy as the candidate who has all the qualities required to become the next Secretary-General at the Agency", stated Mrs. Landry.

The Agence de Coopération culturelle et technique was founded in 1970 to promote cooperation between francophone countries in cultural and technical fields. Ottawa and Québec have hosted the Second Session of the General Conference. The ACCT consists of 39 states and governments. Québec and New Brunswick have the status of and sit in the General Conference as "participating governments."

The upcoming proceedings of the General Conference will take place at the Canadian Government's Conference Centre. Some 30 ministers and 200 delegates are expected for the meeting.